

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



537890

(43) International Publication Date
1 July 2004 (01.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/056119 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04N 7/24, 7/52**

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/IB2003/005911

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(22) International Filing Date:

12 December 2003 (12.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/433,746 16 December 2002 (16.12.2002) US

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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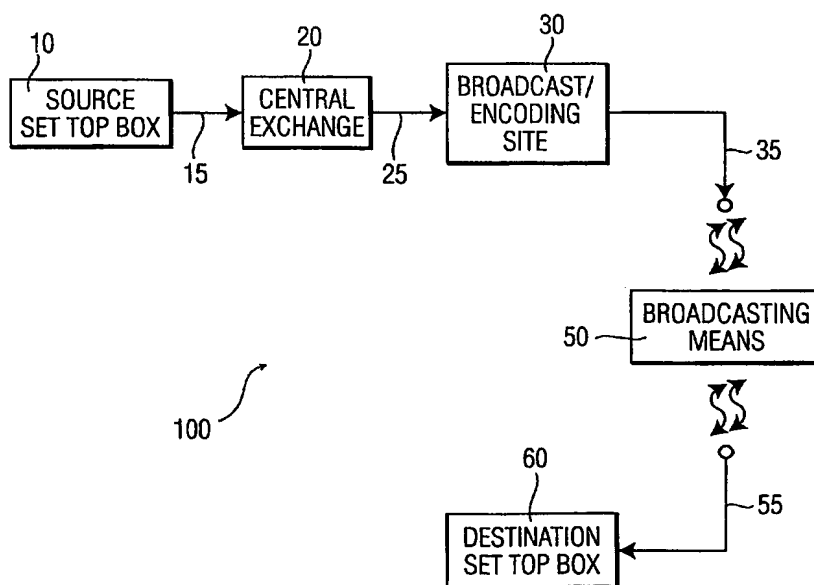
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **INTER SET TOP BOX PERSONAL MESSAGING WITHOUT USING INTERNET**



(57) Abstract: A communication method which allows users to send and received text messages between their respective set top boxes. The method which includes transmitting text messages from multiple source set top boxes to an exchange. The exchange, in turn, packetizes the text messages into data packets and forwards the data packets to a multiplexor. The multiplexor multiplexes the data packets along with audio and video data into an output transport stream. The output transport stream is then broadcast to multiple destination set top boxes. The destination set top boxes have demultiplexing capability, thereby allowing a user at the destination set top box to ultimately read, and respond, to the original transmitted text message. A system employing the same is further disclosed.

WO 2004/056119 A1



SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations

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